

and debt relief for developing countries, should help create a positive environment for women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

As the complexity of the global economy increases, so too does the important role of women. They make up to 75 percent of workers in the "shadow" or informal economy and constitute an ever-greater share of the workforce in developing countries. Many studies have proven that women's earnings are directly invested in the education, health, and welfare of their children.

The United States has not taken adequate steps to implement its commitments made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in its foreign policy and international assistance programs. For example, the U.S. has not implemented strategic objective A1 of the Platform for Action, "Review, adopt, and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty" or strategic objective K2, "Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development."

No one sectoral intervention is sufficient to create the environment in which women and girls can thrive economically and socially. Investments are necessary in multiple areas including: education and training; health care including access to safe and effective family planning and reproductive health services, maternal health care, and children's health; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; tuberculosis treatment; microcredit; and human rights, violence prevention and anti-trafficking.

With this in mind, I am pleased to be joined by ten original cosponsors today in introducing the Global Actions and Investments for New Success for Women and Girls Act, or the GAINS Act. It is our hope that the next administration will view this legislation as a blueprint for action, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and the next president to improve further the status of the world's women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, when rollcall vote numbers 531, 532, and 533 were cast. Had I been present in this Chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yea" on each of these rollcall votes.

THE MISSOURI RIVER RESTORATION ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill of great significance to the State of South Dakota as well as the entire Nation.

The Missouri River Restoration Act of 2000 is an effort to provide solutions and action to a serious problem facing the Missouri River and all things near the river in South Dakota. That problem is the incredible build-up of sediment in the river and the effect that these accumulations have on water quality and all things that depend upon the river. Sedimentation and its effects are very real. According to studies conducted through the Corps of Engineers, tributaries of the Missouri River and erosion along its own shorelines result in millions of tons of sediment being dumped into the river each year. This action forms deltas in the riverbed that can push the boundaries of the river beyond its banks.

The river's action is a reaction to a number of factors. It is responding to its relatively new course as directed by a series of dams built in the 1950s and 1960s. The construction of the various dams on the Missouri has created a series of reservoirs, which has modified the flows and continually changed the river from within, reshaping its banks and shores. Years ago, resulting sediment would have flowed down the river, some of it settling along the way and much of it making its way all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. With the dams and the modified flows, sedimentation problems surfaced. That is the case today, and the impact of these changes is becoming more dramatic by the day. Does that mean the Fort Peck, Garrison, Oahe, Big Bend, Ft. Randall, and Gavins Point Dams never should have been built? To suggest so would deny the many benefits these six structures have reaped. It is through these dams that clean, low-cost hydroelectric power is generated for rural and urban areas across the Northern Plains. The reservoirs created through the dams have also provided tremendous opportunities for recreation, which itself has turned into an \$80 million industry; municipal, industrial and rural water supply; irrigation for agricultural production; navigation; and, of course, flood control.

But the rapid accumulation of silt in the bed of the reservoirs in South Dakota threatens each of those functions. In fact, Congress already has responded in part to some of the immediate impacts. As a result of flooding caused by a combination of factors, including a rise in the pool levels, Congress authorized a flood mitigation program for property owners in the Pierre and Fort Pierre, South Dakota area. As a result, the property owners in Pierre and Fort Pierre can take some comfort in knowing a project is underway. Yet that project provides little comfort to other communities and landowners that wonder when the waters of the river will reach them. It also does not address the future impacts to the other purposes of the system, such as hydropower generation and recreation. In sum, that mitigation effort addresses an acute situation in what is a larger, chronic problem.

I have maintained in my time in Congress that we must push the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and all other involved parties to look beyond the immediate problems toward long-term solutions. In an attempt to break the cycle of studies, a provision was included at my request in the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. The new law directs the Corps to finalize studies and analysis of the problem of sedimentation in Lake Sharpe

near Pierre and Fort Pierre and recommend how to stem the flow of sediment in order to prevent encroachment by the river and destruction of the river.

The preliminary findings are quite compelling. The report indicates the following. Sediment will continue to build in the river in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area if no action is taken. Sedimentation will result in increased water surface level of over 2 feet in the next 50 years, which could lead to additional ground-water flooding. No one approach will solve the problem and each approach appears to have significant, though not unreconcilable environmental hurdles. Action will require direction from Congress. In other words, the problem is real, there is no silver bullet answer, and Congress must decide how to proceed.

I have said before it is time for us to move beyond the study phase to the action phase. And with the preliminary findings from this report, the time is ripe to move toward a solution. The legislation I am introducing today, the Missouri River Restoration Act of 2000 would move us down the path toward action. The bill would give state, tribal, and local leaders the power to play an active role in the development of a long term solution to the sedimentation and related problems in South Dakota's stretch of the Missouri. The bill gives maximum control to the leaders closest to the people they serve; holds the Corps and other Federal agencies ultimately responsible for its river management decisions; provides the funds to make necessary improvements; and joins stakeholders together for the common good of the Missouri River's future.

Specifically, the bill would create a governing board, known as the Trust. That board would be comprised of 14 members appointed by the Governor of South Dakota and nine members representing the American Indian tribes in South Dakota. From that board would be selected an Executive Committee that would consider more routine business of the Trust. The Trust and the Executive Committee would produce a plan to carry out projects directed at reducing sediment and at addressing the impacts of sedimentation. To fund these activities, the bill establishes a \$300 million trust fund that would collect interest off investments made in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or U.S. guaranteed obligations. After 11 years, the interest earned off these investments then would be available to the Trust for projects included in the plan.

Another important component of the bill continues current obligations of the Corps. In April of 2000, I held a town meeting in Pierre, SD, for the public to hear from the Corps some of their preliminary findings to the causes and impacts of sedimentation. At that meeting, residents questioned the Corps as to why it was not taking action to reduce sedimentation. The answer from Corps officials was that congressional direction would be needed. Even though the Corps could take on dredging or other projects aimed at reducing the impacts of sediment accumulation, it would not do so without Congress specifically authorizing Corps involvement. As a result, this bill gives specific authority to the Corps to use operations and maintenance funding it receives for projects located along the Missouri in South Dakota to address the impacts of sedimentation.